



STATE OF
CONNECTICUT
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS
COMMISSION



<http://www.cga.ct.gov/asianamerican/>

Testimony of the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission before the Committee on
Labor and Public Employees
February 17, 2011

Re: HB 5464, AAC State Employees and Violence and Bullying in the Workplace

Senators Prague and Gomes, Representatives Zalaski and Santiago, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, I thank you for this opportunity to provide recommendations, and to show support for H.B. 5464, AAC State Employees and Violence and Bullying in the Workplace.

Bullying is a growing epidemic not just in our schools, but also in our workplaces. According to a recent Zogby International survey, 37% of American workers are bullied at work, 72% of the bullies are bosses, and 62% of employers ignore bullying in their workplaces entirely, no matter how severe.

The Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (APAAC) supports HB 5464 because it mandates that the DAS collect and analyze the number of complaints it receives to the CGA annually.

We recommend, however, that HB 5464 include a provision which also requires the DAS to collect the race/ethnicity of the person filing the complaint. Collecting this information has little to no fiscal impact and will produce a sizable return for Connecticut.

For example, with accurate data, the Commission will be able to conduct trend analyses on individuals who have been bullied in State employment to see, in the long run, if there exists a pattern with regards to workplace bullying and the race/ethnicity of the victim.

Data on the race/ethnicity of victims being bullied also makes it easier for State agencies with affirmative action requirements and assists the General Assembly in understanding the status of Asian Pacific Americans- a minority that is gaining political and social influence in Connecticut.

As you know the *APAAC is the only nonpartisan comprehensive state institution that evaluates laws and policies for their impact on the lives of Asian Pacific Americans (APA's) in Connecticut.* Our job is to provide information, analysis, and assistance to the General Assembly, state agencies, state leaders and the public on all matters concerning the status of APA's.

We hope you seriously consider our recommendation and the benefits it may produce for Connecticut in the future. As always the Commission is eager to work with the General Assembly and any other State entity in improving the status of Asian Pacific Americans in Connecticut.

Thank you for this opportunity. I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have.